

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,784

Examiner

Navin Natnithadha

Applicant(s)

TENERZ ET AL.

Art Unit

3735

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 14 December 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

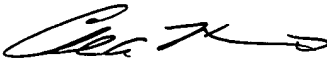
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


CHARLES A. MARMOR II
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1, 12, and 18 have been amended. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-10 and 12-18 are pending.

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, pp. 6-7, filed 14 December 2006, with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-18 have been withdrawn.

3. Claims 1-10 and 12-18 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-10: The prior art of record does not teach a system to sense the location of a distal portion of a member within a body, including the following structure: a pressure sensor, in fluid communication with the opening at the distal end of an introducer portion; and a core pin with a channel to provide the fluid communication, wherein the core pin is sized such that the core pin obstructs the opening at the distal end of the introducer so that the channel is the only flow path from the distal end of the introducer.

Claims 12-15: The prior art of record does not teach a system to sense the location of a distal portion of a member within a body, including the following structure: an introducer portion including a lumen and a side hole near the opening at the distal end of the introducer portion; and a pressure sensor, in fluid communication with the distal end via the side hole and the lumen.

Claims 16-17: The prior art of record does not teach a system to sense the location of a distal portion of a member within a body, including the following structure: a core pin inserted in an introducer portion such that a distal end of the core pin passes

Art Unit: 3735

beyond the distal end of the introducer portion, the core pin having a portion of reduced diameter such that the channel is formed between an inner wall portion of the introducer portion and an outer portion of the core pin, the channel having an entrance distal from the distal end of the introducer portion; and a pressure sensor in fluid communication with the entrance via the channel.

Claim 18: The prior art of record does not teach a system to sense the location of a distal portion of a member within a body, including the following structure: a core pin inserted in an introducer portion such that a distal end of the core pin passes beyond the distal end of the introducer portion, the core pin having a channel, the channel having an entrance distal from the distal end of the introducer portion, the core pin sized such that the core pin obstructs the distal end of the introducer portion so that the channel is the only flow path from the distal end of the introducer portion; and a pressure sensor, in fluid communication with the entrance via the channel, adapted to provide a pulsation which can be sensed by an operator when the distal end is placed within a pulsating portion of the body.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3735

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navin Natnithithadha whose telephone number is (571) 272-4732. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II can be reached on (571) 272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Charles A. Marmor, II
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3735



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